

Comments on the New Hampshire Energy Plan

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Portsmouth Hearing

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to the development of a state energy policy. No issue could be timelier, both to the state and the nation.

I hope we will look to the future as we develop this plan, instead of rooting ourselves in the past.

I hope we will plan an energy future for New Hampshire that is built on a few bedrock principles.

- Energy has tremendous costs, many of which are not yet monetized. We must minimize these costs.
- Energy production and consumption have huge impacts, many of which have been virtually ignored.
- Energy sources must be good for the people and other living things in New Hampshire.
- Energy facilities generate waste material and pollution along with power. They must be minimized or eliminated.

I would like to see New Hampshire pursue public policy where the goals are:

- providing the energy we need,
- reducing demand for energy,
- conserving energy, and
- embracing clean, renewable sources of energy.

Our energy past is one of dirty, dangerous, unhealthy energy sources - primarily coal, oil, and nuclear. This energy has taken us down a path of smog, acid rain, asthma, and global warming. It's time to put the past behind us.

The future is an opportunity to make a break with the status quo. We can do things differently. In many cases the technology already exists. What's missing is the public will to change course.

No doubt tonight we will hear slogans from the energy establishment. One of those will be something about how we need to maintain "energy diversity."

I couldn't agree more. We need the diversity of significant components of solar, wind, and other renewable, clean, nonpolluting energy sources. We need to break the hold of the past, and look to our future.

Unfortunately, when I hear the energy establishment talking about energy diversity, adopting clean new renewable energy technology is not what they mean. In fact this has come to be nothing more than code words for defending the status quo. In this view diversity is nothing more than the same old dirty power plants with the same old dirty and dangerous energy sources.

I want a policy oriented around diverse sources of clean energy. That is an energy future we can live with.